



# **New Hampshire**

## **Student Practice Test Booklet**

### **Grade 8**

### **Writing**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Writing—Session 1

**Answer questions 1 through 14.**

- 1** What is the **best** way to combine the two sentences below?

Geometry is my favorite part of math class. I do better on the algebra questions.

- A. Geometry is my favorite part of math class: However, I do better on the algebra questions.
- B. Geometry is my favorite part of math class, and I do better on the algebra questions.
- C. Geometry is my favorite part of math class; however, I do better on the algebra questions.
- D. Geometry is my favorite part of math class, I do better on the algebra questions.

- 2** What is the **best** way to combine the two sentences below?

I like doing science assignments. I find science experiences difficult to explain.

- A. However, I like doing science experiments, and I find them difficult to explain.
- B. I like doing science experiments, I find science experiments difficult to explain.
- C. When I like doing science experiments, yet I find them difficult to explain.
- D. Although I like doing science experiments, I find them difficult to explain.

3

What is the **best** way to combine the two sentences below?

Scientists claim that teenagers naturally need to sleep later in the day than adults. Teenagers' biological clocks are set differently.

- A. Scientists claim that teenagers naturally need to sleep later in the day than adults: teenagers' biological clocks are set differently.
- B. Scientists claim that teenagers naturally need to sleep later in the day than adults because teenagers have a different biological clock.
- C. Scientists claim that teenagers naturally need to sleep later in the day than adults; however, teenagers have a different biological clock.
- D. Although scientists claim that teenagers naturally need to sleep later in the day than adults, teenagers' biological clocks are set differently.

4

Which other word in the sentence below should be capitalized?

Our teacher assigned *The Old Man and the sea* for reading this summer.

- A. teacher
- B. sea
- C. reading
- D. summer

- 5 Which word in the sentence below should be capitalized?

My father wanted me to play major league baseball in the fall with coach Harry.

- A. father
- B. major
- C. fall
- D. coach

- 6 Which word correctly completes the sentence below?

My uncle took all of his children to \_\_\_\_\_ school.

- A. them
- B. those
- C. they
- D. their

- 7 Which word correctly completes the sentence below?

Grab \_\_\_\_\_ coat so we can go!

- A. these
- B. your
- C. their
- D. them

- 8 What is the correct form of the underlined words below?

Yesterday, a group of students goes to the school for foreign language club.

- A. went
- B. go
- C. were gone
- D. was going

- 9 Which edit is needed in the sentence below?

When Jamie lended me a shirt, I did not hear her ask for it back.

- A. change *lended* to *lent*
- B. change *me* to *I*
- C. change *hear* to *heard*
- D. change *back* to *backed*

- 10 Which edit is needed in the sentence below?

Yolando was choosen to be the lead in the school play.

- A. Change *was* to *is*
- B. Change *choosen* to *chosen*
- C. Change *be* to *have been*
- D. Change *lead* to *led*

- 11 How should the underlined word in the sentence below be written?

One of the girls go to every soccer game.

- A. are going
- B. going
- C. would of gone
- D. goes

**When writing responses to prompts 12, 13, and 14 remember to**

- **read the prompt carefully,**
- **develop a complete response to the prompt,**
- **proofread and edit your writing,**
- **write only in the space provided.**

*Read the passage below and then write a response to the prompt that follows.*

### **The Astronomer**

An astronomer used to go out at night to observe the stars. One evening, as he wandered through the suburbs with his whole attention fixed on the sky, he fell accidentally into a deep well. While he lamented and bewailed his sores and bruises, and cried loudly for help, a neighbor ran to the well, and learning what had happened said: "Hark ye, old fellow, why, in striving to pry into what is in heaven, do you not manage to see what is on earth?"

- 12** Write a paragraph explaining why you think the author chose to include dialogue at the end of the story. Use details from the passage in your response.

- 13** Do you think that school should start and end two hours later each day? Write a persuasive paragraph for your school newspaper developing ONE argument supporting your opinion.

- 14 Look at the picture and then write a telephone conversation (dialogue) that reveals character traits of the girl on the cell phone. Use descriptive details in your writing.





## Writing Session—2

**Follow along as the passage is read to you. Then read the prompt in the box and follow the directions below.**

*For a report on Ancient Aztec children in Mexico, a student researched the topic and wrote this fact sheet. Read the fact sheet and think about how the life of Aztec school children is different from yours. Then write a response to the prompt that follows.*

### **Fact Sheet about Aztec School Children**

- Lived in Mexico between 1200 A.D. and 1500 A.D.
- Schools were part of the temples
- Teachers were priests
- Children between the ages of 5 and 9 lived at the schools
- Aztec boys went to school
- Historians not sure if Aztec girls were allowed to go to school
- Different schools for children of nobility or wealthy people and common (or non-wealthy) children
- Children of nobility learned reading, writing, math, and to play a musical instrument
- Studied astronomy, including how to predict eclipses and comets and how to keep track of the days on a calendar
- Received harsh punishments for misbehavior
- Priests were less strict at schools for children of the common people
- Children of common people allowed to go home
- All children learned about religion and war and memorized stories
- Children had to cook, clean, and help the priests

Use information from the fact sheet and your own knowledge to write a report that compares the experiences of Ancient Aztec school children to school experiences of children today.

Use the box below to organize your writing. You may fill it in **before** you write to **plan** your response, or you may fill it in **after** you write to **check** your response. What you write in this box will be included as part of your score.

15 What is your focus/controlling idea? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

16 What are the supporting details in your report?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

17 What is the conclusion to your report? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**When writing responses to prompt 18 remember to**

- **read the prompt carefully,**
- **develop a complete response to the prompt,**
- **proofread and edit your writing,**
- **write only in the space provided.**

- 18** Use information from the fact sheet and your own knowledge to write a report that compares the experiences of Ancient Aztec school children to school experiences of children today.